



# Urban 4-H in Youngstown, Ohio



## Purpose

A century ago, 50% of the American population lived in rural areas and 30% of the population made a living from farming. Today, less than 10% of the population live in rural areas, and fewer than 2% farm for a living (CSREES). Once a traditionally rural youth program, 4-H has evolved into a youth development program for all young people, regardless of where they live. Community leaders in Youngstown, Ohio, expressed a desire to implement traditional 4-H community clubs in their neighborhoods.

## Impact

The first 4-H club in Youngstown was established in 2007. Today there are six clubs in the city. Activities are adapted to the urban setting. Club meetings are held in schools and churches, and members take gardening, creative arts, and leadership projects. Urban youth attend 4-H camp. The urban program has added much-needed diversity to the county 4-H program. In 2006, there were no 4-H members from urban areas. In 2014, there were 129. The number of adult volunteers in urban areas increased from 1 to 32. In 2006, there was one African-American in Mahoning County 4-H. In 2014, that number had increased to 147, with 18 members of Hispanic ethnicity.

## Contact

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## Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

OSU Extension  
College of Food, Agricultural, and  
Environmental Sciences

## Community Partners Involved

Youngstown Mayor's Office  
Youngstown City Council  
Raymond John Wean Foundation  
Idora Neighborhood Association  
Youngstown Neighborhood  
Development Corporation